First Sunday of Advent

Leader: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined…. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" *(Isaiah 9:2 & 6)*

Leader: Loving God, you are our peace;

**People:** prepare our hearts for your coming.

Leader: Forge the swords of bitterness into plows of blessings;

**People:** till the soil of our souls for your springing forth in us.

Leader: Remove our heart's defensive armor,

**People:** clothe us in light alone and pierce our wide-open hearts with your love.

Leader: By your Spirit in us, may we be at peace:

**People:** awake, and ready to welcome your presence. Amen

*As the candle is lit let us sing: Like a Child FWS #2092 verse 1*
Leader: "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'" *(Luke 2:8-10)*

Leader: God of Justice, your Reign awaits!

**People:** But how shall we live in peace?

Leader: The axe is lying at the root of the trees!

**People:** How shall we prepare the way?

Leader: Let your grace like a shoot rise within us.

**People:** Let your harmony reign in our hearts.

Leader: May your grace have dominion over us.

**People:** May the lamb of our faith lie down with the wolf of our fears, in peace.

Leader: By your grace prepare a way in us,

**People:** and be the peace in us that we long for. Amen.

*As the candle is lit let us sing: Like a Child FWS #2092 verse 2*
Leader: "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name" (Luke 1:46-49)

Leader: Like Mary, who says Yes to your promise, and farmers in hope for their crops,

People: we welcome your good news in peace:
Leader: your grace that will upend our world,

People: we receive with patience and hope.
Leader: Your justice that brings down the mighty,

People: that feeds the hungry and poor,
Leader: we welcome, and ask for your courage.

People: In peace we say Yes to your peace.
Leader: In peace we welcome the miracle:

People: may your life unfold within us in light.
Leader: The desert will blossom, the blind will see,

People: and we will return from our exile to be one with each other again.
Leader: Like Mary, who says Yes to your promise,

People: in peace we say Yes to your peace. Amen.

As the candle is lit let us sing: Like a Child FWS #2092 verse 3
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Leader: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David" (Luke 2:1, 3-4)

Leader: God-with-Us, Emmanuel, Savior,

**People: come to us, and bring us your peace.**

Leader: Help us find our joy and our purpose;

**People: restore us, and bring us your peace.**

Leader: May the dreams that we have and our visions

**People: give us hope, and bring us your peace.**

Leader: Holy Child, come among us and claim us:

**People: make us family, and give us your peace.**

Leader: Coming One, awaken us to one another,

**People: stir up our love, and give us your peace.**

Leader: God-with-Us, Emmanuel, Savior,

**People: be born in us and give us your peace. Amen.**

*As the candle is lit let us sing: Like a Child FWS #2092 verse 1*
Christmas Eve

Leader: In the beginning, O God, was your Word:

People: a light in the darkness shining.

Leader: Your word came to life in Jesus,

People: a light in the darkness shining.

Leader: Your grace has come to us with salvation,

People: a light in the darkness shining.

Leader: A child has been born among us,

People: a light in the darkness shining.

Leader: Your love comes to life within us,

People: a light in the darkness shining.

Leader: May your love chase away all evil,

People: a light in the darkness shining.

Leader: May your mercy come fill and transform us,

People: a light in the darkness shining.

Leader: May we live with your love in this world,